

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 7, No. 8

SEPTEMBER 2012

Complimentary copy

City sees encouraging signs of residential, commercial growth

By Matt Heilman

The last several months have gone well for the City of Bel Aire from a development standpoint. Much of the conversation at recent council meetings has focused on commercial development with the first tenants of the city's 800-acre industrial park and nearby Tierra Verde develop-

ment committed to breaking ground.

Meanwhile, Bel Aire is starting to see tangible progress on the residential front. Construction is under way on a pair of twin homes in the Central Park Fourth Addition, which runs between City Hall and the Catholic Care Center, northwest of 45th North and Rock Road. The developer,

Wichita-based Premier Holdings LLC, has also pulled two permits to start construction on patio homes, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said.

In the nearby Elk Creek neighborhood, Wichita-based Perfection Builders LLC is planning to build patio homes, referred to as "courtyard homes," on 27 acres, just west of upscale homes that

are priced in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range.

The master plan calls for 90 of the courtyard homes to eventually be constructed on the 27 acres as part of Phase 2 of Elk Creek. As of Aug. 14, Lasher said Perfection Builders LLC owner Scott Lehner was working on getting build-

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City OKs budget without a tax hike

By Matt Heilman

The Bel Aire City Council approved the city's 2013 budget at its Aug. 21 meeting in front of zero residents. While the council encourages feedback from the people it represents, the mostly empty council chambers illustrated how much more smoothly the budget process went this summer than in the last couple of budget seasons.

As expected, the council approved a 2013 budget that doesn't call for an increase to the property tax mill levy.

The city's portion of the total mill levy for 2013 is 46.118 mills. The total mill levy, including the city's portion, plus property taxes for the Wichita school district, fire protection and Sedgwick County is projected to remain at the 2012 mark of 153.598 mills.

Last year, the council approved about \$745,000 in cuts, which most notably hit the police department with the loss of three full-time officers and a full-time police clerk.

The cuts accompanied a property tax hike of 6.839 mills in the city's portion of the mill levy, which means that by the end of 2012, the owner of a \$100,000 home in Bel Aire will have paid \$79 more in city property taxes than they did in 2011. Bel Aire isn't well enough financially to begin scaling back to the pre-2012 mark.

By keeping the mill levy consistent with last year's mark, residents will still pay more in 2013 than they did in 2011, but the council and city staff shared a positive outlook of the city's management of its debt.

When the final budget was approved as a proposal in July, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher credited the council and residents for making difficult and painful decisions last year to improve the city's

See BUDGET, Page 6



USD 259 opens new schools

The new home for Wichita Northeast Magnet High School opened to about 600 students in Bel Aire Aug. 15. The 190,000-square-foot building near 53rd North and Rock Road includes a large commons area where students gather for lunch. The school also includes a large gymnasium with bleachers, a 1,000-seat auditorium featuring an orchestra pit and a swimming pool that will be utilized in physical education classes.

Photos by Matt Heilman



McGinn wins party nod for state Senate

By Matt Heilman

North Sedgwick County residents who took the time to vote in the Aug. 7 primary election made their voices heard and now can look ahead to the general election in November.

In state Senate District 31, incumbent Rep. Carolyn McGinn of rural Sedgwick defeated Wichita businessman Gary Mason with 55 percent of the recorded votes.

McGinn secured 4,712 votes to Mason's 3,821.

Though disappointed he won't be representing District 31 in Topeka, Mason said he

was able to achieve part of what he hoped to accomplish with his candidacy.

"I think we were able to push the conservative message in the district and let the people know that they weren't necessarily getting represented that way," he said.

Mason said his message resonated enough for McGinn to take a more conservative approach leading up to the primary. Before the primary, the small-business owner moved from his home in east Wichita to Park City to stay within the district after boundaries shifted.

District 31 includes north-central Wichita, Park City, Valley Center, Kechi and Harvey

County.

With the win in the primary, McGinn secured her third four-year term as a state senator with no Democrat or third-party candidate filed to run in the Nov. 6 general election.

McGinn said she ran her campaign with an emphasis on economic improvement and has a voting record that shows she's been conservative. She said she plans to continue working closely with constituents in her district and across the state.

"To me, it's an honor and a privilege to

See PRIMARY, Page 2

Cities hope to avoid litigation over water

By Matt Heilman

Park City and Bel Aire have at least one thing in common. Each city wants fair water rates for its residents.

That common ground is a starting point for the cities as they work to avoid possible litigation concerning a decade-old contract Park City and Bel Aire are locked into with the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority (CCUA).

The CCUA is the water and sewer treatment facility co-owned by Park City and Bel Aire. Each city has three representatives on the CCUA board, and votes to amend the current contract for water have stalemated 3-3 without an official tiebreaker.

Based on the amount of water each city was using in 2002, the contract says that Park City and Bel Aire should each pay for 50 percent of the water from the CCUA, regardless of whether each city actually uses half of the water supply.

Today, Bel Aire only uses about 30 percent of its water from the CCUA, with the other 70 percent of the city's supply provided by the City of Wichita.

"In the last 10 years, our needs have changed," Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said. "We don't need 50 percent."

Bel Aire's delegation on the CCUA board has tried to amend the contract so they don't have to pay for water they don't use.

Park City's delegation points out that the contract is a 30-year agreement and feels it's not right for residents to pay higher water rates to cater to Bel Aire.

Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said Bel Aire made a mistake when it signed a take-or-pay

See CCUA, Page 2

McGinn deserves extended tenure

Congratulations are due Carolyn McGinn for winning the Republican nomination for the Kansas Senate District 31 seat in last week’s primary election. With no challenger filed to run in the November general election, McGinn will be re-elected to her third four-year term.

She deserves it. McGinn has represented District 31 well for the past eight years and has risen through the ranks of Republican leadership in the Senate. More than that, McGinn has wisely kept an open mind on issues important to the district.

She has been a champion for educators, farmers, seniors and business owners.

Plus, McGinn knows her constituents. She grew up with many of them. She’s a hometown girl with a heart for Valley Center and north Sedgwick County.

We appreciated the challenge that political newcomer Gary Mason posed during the campaign. His candidacy focused the debate on several issues important to voters in District 31.

In the end, however, we believe the majority voters felt that their representation in the Senate wasn’t broken, so there was no need to fix it.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Olympians are only human after all

For almost two weeks, I watched some of the best athletes in the world approach or break world records, and remind all of us average folk just how unimpressive we are when we bother to get off the couch and go to the gym or run on the roads. I’ve seen flying squirrels defy gravity, I’ve seen human sharks glide through the water faster than most of us can run and I’ve seen human gazelles push the threshold of foot speed.

Even the slowest, most out of shape Olympian carries superior athleticism than most of us. It’s sobering and fascinating to watch the Summer Olympics every four years. And there have been several great storylines to follow



Heil on life

By Matt Heilman

in the 2012 games in London.

I was happy to see American Gabby Douglas win the overall individual gold medal in women’s gymnastics and to see Michael Phelps end his Olympic swimming career with the overall medals record. On the track, I enjoyed watching Grenada’s Kirani

James win the 400-meter gold medal in less than 44 seconds and the repeat gold-medal performance of Jamaica’s Usain Bolt in the 100 meters.

But my favorite Olympic moment so far came courtesy of a German who won’t be going home with any hardware. On Aug. 6, Stephan Feck accomplished a feat I’d never seen before in an Olympic event. With his second dive in the men’s 3-meter springboard diving competition, Feck scored a 0.0 on the scorecards of all seven judges.

That’s right. ZERO. POINT. ZERO. On his second attempt in the competition, Feck attempted a three-and-one-half rotation somersault. He got plenty of spring off the board, but

was unable to complete the routine. He entered the water well short of the three-and-a-half rotations; ending with an amazing back-buster that left a splash that would make Shamu jealous.

It had to have been a mortifying experience for the poor guy and I don’t mean to rub salt in the wound by recounting the failed dive. But I’d seriously like to take a moment to thank Mr. Feck for reminding us all that just like the rest of us, Olympic athletes are only human.

Matt Heilman is a reporter for The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at matt@arkvalleynews.com.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Contemporary guitar service with communion each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Traditional service at 11 with communion each Sunday. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside, across from Heights High School).

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office at clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord’s Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible

study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (on 45th North between Hillside and Oliver) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Pastor is Jeff Mullen. Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church welcomes a new minister, Rev. Larry Young.

Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North).

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. which includes children’s church. Sunday school begins at 9:30.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountucc.org.

Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee follow the service.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

Movie night is the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist Church

The church is located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Phone number is 744-1221, website is www.kechi-umc.org and e-mail address is kechi-umc@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday worship and praise band is at 9:03 a.m., Sunday school is at 10 and worship is at 11.

Wednesday evening Rest Stop is from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be prayer time, a short sermon and holy communion. Childcare is provided.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and

children’s church are at 10:45.

Wednesday evening light meal at 6:30 and Bible study at 7.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

Pine Valley Christian Church

The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children’s church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible class and second service.

Primary

Continued from Page 1

serve the 31st district,” she said.

Primaries also determined candidates for state House representation of north Sedgwick County. In House District 91, Wichitan Gene Suellentrop earned the Republican nod over fellow Wichitan Robin Salem Clements. Suellentrop will face Democrat Katelyn Delvaux in the November general election. House District 91 includes Park

City, most of Kechi and north Wichita.

In House District 89, Democrat Roderick Houston earned his party’s nod over fellow Wichitans Peggy Elliott and David Hansen. Houston will face Republican Emmanuel Banks in November.

In House District 85, Bel Aire Democrat Rebecca Armstrong narrowly won her party’s nod over Barry Stanley of Wichita. In November, Armstrong will face incumbent, Rep. Steve Brunk.

Growth

Continued from Page 1

ing permits to begin construction.

More current construction can be seen in The Landing addition in the Central Park community, where Wichita builder Quentin Moeder is building two custom homes.

Most of the residential progress in Bel Aire can be attributed to the presence of the new USD 259 schools in the city.

Near 53rd North and Rock Road and the new home for Northeast Magnet High School, Wichita developer Gene Vitarelli is still on track to begin construction of duplexes and single-family homes on 30 lots as part of the Rock Springs Addition. Vitarelli initially proposed a 67-lot phase, but scaled back the plans in February in large part because the needed infrastructure include more than \$400,000 worth of paving.

This week, Lasher said construction in Rock Springs

would begin as soon as the entire necessary infrastructure is in place. Bel Aire Mayor Harold Smith said he expects that to happen “soon.”

Further down the road but also drawn to Bel Aire with the new schools is a pair of apartment communities. Springfield, Mo.-based Zimmerman Properties Development LLC is planning to build a \$5.2 million, 48-unit apartment complex on four acres neighboring the new high school to the north. The

developer is planning to construct the apartments through a federal incentive called the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. The City of Bel Aire is not accountable for any incentives for Zimmerman Properties, Lasher said.

Locally, Zimmerman Properties’ footprint can be seen in the 48-unit Brookfield Apartments in the 1200 block of West 77th North in Valley Center.

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Bel Aire council approved

an addendum to a lot purchase agreement with Zimmerman Properties. Lasher said Zimmerman’s application to apply for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program is in February and the developer will know if it will get the tax credits in May. He said construction could begin next fall if Zimmerman Properties gets the funding.

Another apartment developer has shown an interest in Bel Aire. On Aug. 7, the council approved a resolution

of support for the development of a market-based housing community by Corson Development Inc., based in Hendersonville, Tenn.

The proposed apartment community would consist of 150 to 200 residential units and be financed through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Lasher said it would likely be at least 18 months before Corson started construction.

“They have a pretty drawn out process they have to go through,” he said.

CCUA

Continued from Page 1

agreement for water with the City of Wichita in 2007. He points out that Wichita water is more expensive and Bel Aire has to pay off about \$20 million for construction of the CCUA facility. He said there’s enough water in the CCUA to meet the needs of both cities. Park City’s agreement with Wichita says it will only use Wichita water as a backup supply.

In March, Lasher said Bel Aire’s 2007 take-or-pay deal with Wichita was deemed necessary and the contract with Wichita is locked in for 20 years. Bel Aire has been trying to renegotiate the CCUA contract because that’s where it uses less water.

Park City wants no part of it and the stalemate could lead to court if a compromise can’t be reached.

At a July 31 special meeting, the Park City council approved a resolution to give City Attorney Doug Moshier authority to take legal action against the CCUA to force the organization to enforce its contract. Essentially, the council voted to force both cities to comply with the 50-50 agreement.

“From our perspective, if we changed the contract,

what says in a year that if they have a new council that they won’t want to change it too, or our new council won’t want it changed?” Whitson said.

Whitson said the possible litigation would be an injunction against the CCUA to enforce the contract between the cities. Park City is not planning to sue Bel Aire.

“We have nothing against the town of Bel Aire,” he said. “The contract is with the CCUA.”

The July 31 action from the Park City council followed a resolution passed by Bel Aire for Lasher and Bel Aire Attorney Allison Brown to work toward renegotiating the CCUA contract with Whitson and Moshier.

One of the issues that came up is Bel Aire’s reluctance to repair or replace a damaged pump on one of its wells. Whitson said it would likely cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to repair the well or replace the pump.

A vote to allow Park City to cover the cost for the repair stalemated at 3-3 on the CCUA board with Bel Aire’s delegation opposed. To Whitson, that indicated Bel Aire is trying to force Park City into reworking the contract between the two cities.

Lasher said it’s simply a matter of Bel Aire not want-

ing to replace a well that isn’t needed since the city only gets about one-third of its water from the CCUA.

Lasher said representatives from each city met Aug. 2 with CCUA attorney Russ Hazelwood to discuss their concerns.

“We thought that surely there’s a way we can work together,” Lasher said. “We’re both partners in this.”

He said an option could be for Bel Aire to take 50 percent of the CCUA’s water and provide some of the excess water to Park City. On Aug.

23, Whitson said an informal agreement had been reached, at least temporarily halting the plans for litigation. “Everything was up front. ... Everybody knew what the deal was,” Whitson said of the 50-50 pay agreement in the CCUA contract.

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Optional buffet: 5:30 p.m. — \$5

Presentation: 6 p.m. — **FREE**

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Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaireks.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

COED OUTDOOR SOCCER (ages 4-11)

Soccer for boys and girls ages 4-11. Games will be played on Saturdays from September 8th - October 20th. Practices have begun but limited openings remain. Please call for more details.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL (ages 6-11)

Bel Aire will again be teaming up with the Valley Center Recreation Commission for flag football. Practices will be held at the respective home location with games being played at both sites. Flag Football is for boys and girls in 3rd-6th grade. Games will be played on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evenings of Saturday mornings. Practices have begun but limited openings remain. Please call for more details.

PRE-SEASON GIRLS BASKETBALL CLINIC

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with Brent Atwater, a former collegiate player and coach, to bring you several basketball clinics and camps throughout the year. Atwater's programs stress the fundamentals of basketball which make them perfect for kids of all ages and skill levels. The basketball clinic will be held Saturday, October 27th from 1:30-4:00pm. Please call Brent at 807-1036 or visit www.maximizetraining.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Basketball is for girls ages 5-11. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights beginning October 17. Games will be played on Saturdays starting October 27 (no games on November 24). The registration deadline is October 6.

A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.
For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700

DAZZLING DANCERS (ages 4 & up)

These recreational youth classes will focus on ballet and jazz dance. Classes will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning in mid-October. Please call for more details.

ZUMBA

Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. Classes are held on Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Teens & adults can join at any time!

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and Library area is open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

Locations:

Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

Weekly Events:

Bel Aire Walkers – M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled)
Free for BA Senior members, alternate times available
Men's Coffee & Fellowship – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center
Yoga – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)
Bridge Games – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center
Low Impact Aerobics – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center
Braum's Breakfast – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. on North Rock Road

Monthly & Special Events:

September 3rd, 6:30 p.m. – Potluck Dinner and Jim Laubach from Heartland Coin Gallery-Community Room
September 5th, 1 p.m. – Dr. Bailey from Bailey Total Health
September 10th, 11:00 a.m. – Computer class in Park City (Class Filled)
September 4th, 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast – Auntie C's 425 E. 61st North Park City
September 12th, 10 a.m. – Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center
September 10th, 10 a.m. – RS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center
September 10th, 11:30 a.m. – Lunch at Famous Dave's Webb & 21st Street
September 11th, 9 a.m. – CS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center
September 12th, 8 a.m. – Bus to Kansas State Fair, Fee \$1, Reservation required. For more info call 744-1199
September 14th, 10:30 a.m. – Hearing Health Card
September 14th, 7 p.m. – Movie Night
September 19th, Ladies Dine Out - for info call Anita at 744-2840
September 19th, 10 a.m. – Men's Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
September 19th, 10:15 a.m. – Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)
September 19th, 2 p.m. – Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
September 21st, 8 a.m. – AARP Defensive Driving Course
September 24th, 6 p.m. – Covered Dish Dinner and presentation by Chief John Daily of Bel Aire
September 26th, 10 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
September 26th, 7 p.m. – Bunko games at the Senior Center
September 27th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Senior Expo – Participating locations include Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, Exploration Place, Old Cowtown Museum, and The Wichita Art Museum, more info at www.cpaaa.org/senior-expo/
Oct. 6th - 2-4 pm - 25th Anniversary Celebration at Bel Aire Park (next to the Fire Station)

Community Events

TOPS – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center

City Council Meetings – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month

September 1st – Red Hat Meeting and Winery Tour – call Anita 744-2840 for more info

September 10th – 7 p.m. – Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center

September 10th – 7 p.m. – Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting in Community Room

September 18th – 4-6 p.m. - UAC Meeting at the Senior Center

September 24th – 7 p.m. - Tree Board Meeting at the Senior Center

Sign Up Today For E-Billing!

Hate going to the mailbox in this heat or worrying about a piece of mail being lost? Then sign up to have your Bel Aire Utility Bill e-mailed to you. It will not only reduce the clutter of paper on your kitchen counter, but will also save a tree or two in the process. Go Green Today! Contact the Utility Department at 744-2451 ext. 132 or utilclerk@belaireks.gov to sign up today!

Enroll For Automatic Bill Pay

Never worry if you paid your utility bill on time again with automated bill payments through the City. Each month on the 5th your checking account will be automatically debited for your current bill. All you need to do to sign up is fill out the ACH auto payment form available on the City's website, www.belaireks.gov, or come into City Hall to fill out the form and submit a voided check to the Utility Clerk. Simple, easy, and you don't have to worry when the 10th rolls around if you paid the bill or not!

Bel Aire Shredding Day
Sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions
Club and Waste Connections
September 15, 2012 from 9:30
am to 12:00 pm at City Hall.

Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month



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Wickham Glass is a fourth generation family-owned company, handling commercial glazing projects of all sizes. With more than 65 years experience, Wickham Glass has established itself as one of the top glazing contractors in the Wichita area.



CITY OF BEL AIRE CONTACTS

City Council

Mayor Harold Smith	744-2650
Dr. Gary Breault	744-0560
Peggy O'Donnell	744-0250
Moe Terrebonne	744-2747
David Austin	744-7188

City Hall

Ty Lasher, City Manager	744-2451, ext. 217
Recreation Department	744-2700
Central Park Pool	744-7331
Parks Department	744-8609
Police • Emergency	911
Non-emergency	744-6000
Animal Control (Sedgwick County)	660-7070
Public Works	744-2888
Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.)	761-6972 or 761-6973
Utility Billing	744-2451, ext. 132
Trash (Waste Connections)	838-4920
Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County)	660-7464

POLICE REPORTS

Aug. 21 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a vicious dog in the 6100 block of Edinburg. The dog was not vicious. The owner picked it up.

Aug. 21 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a speeding vehicle in the 4000 block of Clarendon. Officer did not find the vehicle.

Aug. 21 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm on a business in the 6300 block of East 37th North. The alarm was accidentally set off by an employee.

Aug. 21 — Officer Murphy responded to a hit-and-run accident in the 4000 block of Clarendon. A witness said the vehicle involved went into a garage. Officer contacted the driver who said he had been involved in the accident. The driver was cited for speeding, inattentive driving, no driver's license and hit-and-run.

Aug. 21 — Officer Murphy made contact with a driver in the 4600 block of North Elk Creek and observed a cutting torch in the back of the vehicle. The driver was a known burglar, but he was cleared and released.

Aug. 21 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

Aug. 20 — Officer Hutton responded to a report of a suspicious character parked in a van in the 4800 block of North Glendale. The driver was a private investigator working on a case.

Aug. 20 — Officer Hutton responded to a report of a larceny in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. A window on a vehicle was broken and vehicle registration and insurance card were missing.

Aug. 20 — Officer Hutton responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 5100 block of East 61st North. A resident wanted her son removed from the house.

Aug. 20 — Officer McCaslin assisted Wichita police in the 5800 block of East 49th North. Officer tried to contact a resident whose motorcycle was involved in a traffic accident in Wichita.

Aug. 20 — Officer Swanson responded to a protection-from-abuse report in the 3800 block of North Oliver.

Aug. 20 — Officer Swanson stood by to prevent a disturbance during a child custody exchange in the 5900 block of East Danbury.

Aug. 18 — Officer McCaslin assisted Wichita police in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake Court. It was the wrong address.

Aug. 18 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in the 4400 block of North Mission. It was a verbal argument. One person left the residence for the night.

Aug. 18 — Officer Murphy made contact with three people walking in the 4100 block of North Woodlawn. One of the men was flagged as a known gang member. Officer contacted the Wichita police gang unit.

Aug. 18 — Officer Murphy observed an open door at the fire station in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. There were no signs of damage.

Aug. 17 — Lt. Griggs took a report of two truants at Isely Elementary. Officer contacted the children's parent, who said she was getting her children transferred to another school.

Aug. 17 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of disorderly conduct by telephone at a business in the 4700 block of North Webb. An ex-girlfriend was making threatening phone calls to an employee.

Aug. 17 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle at Woodlawn and Quail Ridge. The driver was cited for defective signal lamp and driving in violation of restrictions.

Aug. 17 — Officer Murphy discovered a vehicle off the side of the road in the 4600 block of North Rock Road. The driver, Zulema Favela, was arrested on charges of DUI and transporting an open container of

alcohol.

Aug. 16 — Lt. Griggs took a report of someone entering a construction trailer in the 5500 block of North Lycee by cutting a padlock off with a cutting torch. Loss was unknown.

Aug. 16 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4600 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 15 — Officer Swanson stood by to prevent a disturbance in the 4200 block of North Jamesville.

Aug. 15 — Officer Foxx responded to assist EMS in the 4100 block of North Oliver. Officer was disregarded prior to his arrival.

Aug. 14 — Officer Murphy took a report of a two-vehicle wreck at 45th North and Woodlawn. There were no injuries.

Aug. 14 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of two lost juveniles in the 4200 block of North Country Lane. The children were returned to their home after wandering to a neighbor's house.

Aug. 14 — Officer Foxx checked two vehicles parked in front of an abandoned residence in the 6200 block of East 37th North.

Aug. 14 — Officer Foxx found a black leather binder with a guest check receipt in the middle of the street in the 4800 block of East 37th North. The binder belonged to Bella Luna Café.

Aug. 13 — Officer McCaslin responded to check a residence in the 4900 block of East 48th North. A garage door was open. Everything was secure.

Aug. 13 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a barking dog in the 4100 block of North Farmstead. It was a stray dog that the resident found and kept overnight in his yard. The owner was located.

Aug. 12 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 3800 block of North Oliver. Everything was OK.

Aug. 12 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of lost property in the 6400 block of East Perryton. Two yard signs were reported missing.

Aug. 12 — Officer Steele responded to a hit-and-run in the 5900 block of East 37th North. A vehicle apparently struck a gate and broke the latch.

Aug. 12 — Officer Murphy discovered two dogs at-large in the 3900 block of North Harding. Officer contacted the dogs' owner, who picked up the dogs.

Aug. 11 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4200 block of North Stafford. The resident heard his doorbell ring but found no one in the area, but observed a drive through the area a couple of times.

Aug. 11 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a barking dog in the 6600 block of East Rodeo Court. The owner could not be contacted. A door-hanger was left, advising the homeowner of the complaint.

Aug. 11 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4800 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for defective brake lamps, no driver's license and no ignition interlock device as required by the driver's diversion agreement.

Aug. 10 — Officer Murphy took a report of theft and vandalism to a vehicle.

Aug. 10 — Officer McCaslin responded to a private property accident in the 5500 block of East 45th North. A Cox Communication truck struck barrier poles dividing Sunrise

Christian Academy and the Bel Aire Recreation Center.

Aug. 10 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of vandalism in the 6100 block of East Perryton. Two vehicles were egged.

Aug. 10 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of fraud in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court.

Aug. 10 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5400 block of North Oliver. A juvenile was taken into custody on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Aug. 9 — Lt. Griggs took a report of a burglary in the 4900 block of North Farmstead Court. Two vehicles in a garage were broken into. Coins and a GPS unit were taken.

Aug. 9 — Lt. Griggs took a report of a runaway in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Court. A juvenile was found and taken to the children's home.

Aug. 9 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm on a business in the 6300 block of East 37th North. The alarm was accidentally set off by an employee.

Aug. 8 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of harassment by telephone in the 5100 block of Ashton Court. A suspect was identified.

Aug. 8 — Lt. Griggs responded to an alarm on a residence in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. The dog sitter accidentally set off the alarm.

Aug. 8 — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 5900 block of East 45th North. A resident saw someone sitting on the front porch of a home whose owners were out of town. A neighbor said someone was staying at the residence until the owners returned.

Aug. 8 — Officer Foxx took a report of theft at Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North. John F. Galloway was arrested in the nearby Dillon's parking lot on charges of theft and driving with a revoked license and habitual violator and on a warrant.

Aug. 7 — Officer Swanson responded to a suspicious character report at Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

Aug. 6 — Officer Murphy responded to a burglary alarm on a residence in the 6100 block of East Edinburg. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

Aug. 6 — Officer Swanson responded to the Catholic Care Center. A man stated that his mother was taking advantage of his grandmother by taking large sums of money from their joint bank account. The Catholic Care Center social worker said the Department on Aging would be notified.

Aug. 6 — Officer McCaslin took a report of a man leaving disturbing messages to his children on Face-

book about his ex-wife and her new boyfriend.

Aug. 6 — Officer Toomey responded to a truck on fire in the 5000 block of North Webb. The driver was later located. She told Wichita police her truck had been stolen.

Aug. 5 — Officer Murphy assisted fire and EMS with a choking subject in the 4400 block of North St. James Place. The patient was OK.

Aug. 4 — Officer Steele responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4700 block of North Krueger. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

Aug. 3 — Officer Hutton responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 5000 block of North Remington. No injuries were reported. A city-owned vehicle was damaged.

Aug. 3 — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm at Otis Elevator in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. There were no signs of forced entry.

Aug. 3 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 2 — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS in the 4800 block of East Ashton. A male patient was taken to the hospital.

Aug. 2 — Officer Foxx responded to domestic disturbance in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court. Joshua Stafford was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

Aug. 2 — Lt. Griggs stopped a vehicle in the 6000 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for driving a vehicle with operable police lights and for having no driver's license in possession.

Aug. 2 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 3700 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for cracked windshield and defective brake lamp.

Aug. 2 — Officer Steele heard what he thought was glass breaking and an alarm in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

Aug. 2 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle at 37th North and Woodlawn. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 1 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of a suicidal subject at the pond in the 4200 block of North Woodlawn. A woman was wading in the water. The woman said she wanted to be baptized. She was released to social workers at the scene.

Aug. 1 — Officer Murphy responded to a lost or stolen tag re-

port in the 6500 block of East 45th North.

Aug. 1 — Officer Foxx responded to a family disturbance in the 4400 block of North Woodlawn. Joshua Stafford was arrested on charges of DUI, transporting an open container of alcohol and driving with a suspended license.

July 31 — Officer Hutton responded to a report of vandalism in the 6500 block of East Perryton. A suspect knocked over a trash cart and threw a rock at a garage door.

July 31 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 6400 block of East Danbury. Two people were working on the air conditioner.

July 30 — Officer Hutton followed a vehicle and saw it hit another vehicle at K-254 and Rock Road. The driver, Sydney F. Fisher, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

July 29 — Officer Steele responded to a report of a disturbance in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor.

July 28 — Officer Foxx responded to a burglary in progress in the 5100 block of East Willow Point. There were no signs of a burglary.

July 27 — Officer McCaslin responded to a residence to see if all was OK after someone reported getting a call about an ad on Craig's List of items pictured in front of her residence. The reporting party did not have items on Craig's List.

July 27 — Officer McCaslin took a report of items being taken from Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

July 27 — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm on a business in the 6300 block of East 37th North. An employee accidentally set off the alarm.

July 27 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of suspicious characters in the 5000 block of North Remington. Three subjects were seen digging in the trunk of a vehicle. The subjects said they stopped to try and find a rattle that was coming from inside the vehicle.

July 27 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5800 block of East Memphis. A passenger was highly intoxicated and was taken to the hospital.

July 27 — Officer Foxx took a re-

port of a vehicle vs. deer in the 6100 block of East 53rd North. An officer shot the deer.

July 27 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a burglary in the 5100 block of East Willow Point. There was no damage or loss.

July 26 — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 7600 block of East Central Park. A man was taken to the hospital.

July 26 — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Battin. A person was taken to the hospital.

July 26 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a subject making suicidal statements. Wichita police was contacted.

July 26 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a dog found in the 5100 block of North Remington. The puppy did not have tags. It was taken to the animal shelter.

July 25 — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 6600 block of Shepherds Crossing. A woman was taken to the hospital.

July 25 — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm in the 5900 block of East Memphis. The residence was secure.

July 25 — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a dog found in the 5100 block of North Remington. The puppy did not have tags. It was taken to the animal shelter.

July 24 — Officer Murphy assisted the fire department in the 6200 block of East 44th North. A cap was missing from a hydrant.

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Christ Lutheran adds ‘no shushing’ worship service

By The Post staff

Beginning Sept. 9, Christ Lutheran Church will add a worship service that will start at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. This service will blend the liturgy of Lutheran worship with elements from Sunday school, vacation Bible school and church camp. It will include singing, dancing, moving, laughing, praising, praying,

sharing, celebrating and learning. And there will be “no shushing,” church officials said. This service will be for the entire family — children, parents, grandparents and friends. Here’s what it will look like:
At 9:45, families will gather in the sanctuary and be led by the praise band. The gathering songs will be the high-energy, movement kind of songs that

connect with children of all ages and help them praise the Lord. The gathering section will close with a child reading the prayer of the day and a verse for the day.
Listening comes next. Children (and any parents who want to join them) will leave the sanctuary and go to Sunday school classrooms where they will hear and learn the scripture lesson of the day

in ways they can understand and connect with. At the same time, most parents will remain in the sanctuary where they will hear the same story out of the Bible and hear it preached on. After some discussion, rest and announcements, the children will come back into the sanctuary.
The feasting will begin with offering, prayers, confession and thanksgiving, all done

in ways children can lead, participate in and learn from. Each service will celebrate Holy Communion.
Finally, there will be more songs and blessings, as families are sent out into the world fed, nourished, and empowered for serving the Lord.
This new worship service is an experiment and the congregation doesn’t plan to change either of the other two services

(contemporary at 8:30 a.m. and traditional at 11 a.m.). Based on the changing culture and demographics, their worship and education ministries feel like God is calling them to worship him and learn about him in some new ways. They are also hoping that this will provide a place and space for young families to worship the Lord together in a casual, energetic and life-changing way.

Wichita playwright turns focus on local communities

By Matt Heilman

No town in the Wichita metro area is safe when Carol Hughes pens a play.
This time it’s Bel Aire.
For the past decade, Hughes, a radio personality on KFDI, has been writing two shows per year for Wichita’s Mosley Street Melodrama.
Each play is either based in or references a local community, which is sometimes incorporated into the title. Starting on Sept. 6, actors at Mosley Street will perform a Halloween-themed play written by Hughes called “The Bel Aire Witch Project.”
The play doesn’t dig at Bel Aire much, she said, and besides the title, just one scene satirizes the 1999 film, “The Blair Witch Project.”



Carol Hughes says she gets inspiration to write while walking her dog around her east Wichita neighborhood.

Hughes said the title for the play came to her before she wrote the story one day when she was stopped at the intersection of 37th North and Woodlawn, just south of Bel Aire’s city limits.
“The whole thing, it just came from the title,” she said.
Hughes didn’t reveal much about the plot of “The Bel Aire Witch Project,” but she did say the main characters in the story get lost and repeatedly find themselves back at the intersection of 37th and Woodlawn.
In the story, it’s also revealed that there are witches living in Bel Aire, which is an unexpected discovery in a community that Hughes described as “a relatively quiet little place without a lot of drama around it.”
Hughes said she doesn’t want to offend residents or city leaders with her comedic writing, but there are times when large news items can’t be ignored and a joke or two is

called for to lighten up a heavy issue. For example, in a couple of past productions, she’s written jokes that lightheartedly reference the failure of Wild West World and the vacant land sitting just north of Park City. Hughes also has poked at the once seemingly never-ending construction on Kellogg among several Wichita issues over the last decade.
She said her plays are usually received well by city leaders and residents alike, but she has been questioned as to why she picks on Haysville so much.
Hughes said she tries to dole out the jokes fairly to area cities and doesn’t have anything against Haysville, which might have been perceived as “an easy target” in the past.
“Especially with a theater like Mosley Street, with everyone being from around here,

it makes it more funny if it’s something they can relate to,” she said.
Currently, Mosley Street Melodrama is running a play by Hughes called “Dirty Square Dancing,” which takes place in Yoder. She said the play is consistently drawing large crowds.
Last spring, her play called “Desperate Housewives of Sedgwick County” took place in Valley Center. Her goal is to have her collection of work give a true representation of the entire Wichita area.
“Eventually, I will get around to all of the little towns around Wichita,” she said.
Hughes said she became interested in writing plays when she was working as a cocktail waitress at Empire House Diner Theater at Cowtown, where melodramas were produced prior to the opening of the

theater on North Mosley.
She was a friend of the owners of Mosley Street Melodrama when the theater opened and she submitted a play for them to read for consideration.
“I’d been around it for so long and I think it’s a really fun environment and a fun, kind of creative outlet,” she said of writing a play.
The first play she wrote was called “Titanic on the Plains,” a story about travelers making their way to Wichita. The script was well received and her plays have been running regularly on Mosley Street since then.
Hughes said most of her ideas come to her when she’s out walking her dog in her east Wichita neighborhood. Once she forms an idea for a script, she described the process of figuring out how to execute her thoughts “like trying to put a puzzle together.”
She credits the directors of her plays for putting it all together. Hughes said she’s rewarded when she gets the chance to see her scripts come to life and hear an audience’s reaction.
“When I get in the theater and hear them all laughing and having fun, it’s just a really cool feeling,” she said. “My favorite thing is just to sit at the back of the room when no one knows I’m there and watch it and just hear their honest reaction to it. Not laughing because they know I’m in the room, but laughing because they’re enjoying it.”
“The Bel Aire Witch Project” will run from Sept. 6 to Oct. 27. Mosley Street Melodrama is located at 234 N. Mosley in downtown Wichita. For more information, call 263-0222 or visit www.mosleystreet.com.



Dave Sly has served on the Bel Aire City Council since 2007.

Leadership change on the way for Bel Aire

By Matt Heilman

A change in leadership is coming to Bel Aire.
The city is home to council member Dave Sly, but his career as a Boeing engineer is moving him back to where he grew up. With most of its operation moving out of Wichita, Sly and his family are relocating with his job to Oklahoma City. They called Bel Aire home for more than 15 years.
Sly said he’d move to Oklahoma City in October after his work in Wichita is complete. His last council meeting in Bel Aire will be Sept. 4.
While looking forward to moving back to the area where he grew up and attended school through college, Sly described his circumstances as “bittersweet.”
After the council approved his resignation at its Aug. 7 meeting, Sly thanked Bel Aire citizens for allowing him to serve.
“I do hope I’ve lived up to their expectations,” he said.
Sly also thanked his fellow council members and city staff for the work they’ve put in since he started on the council. When he was elected in 2007, Sly set a goal to help posture Bel Aire to get back on track financially. He said he was satisfied with the progress toward that goal.
“Looking back, this year’s budget is a pretty good testament to what’s been done and how Bel Aire is set up for success in the future,” Sly said.
After accepting Sly’s resignation, the council approved resident Ken Lee to fill his seat starting in the second meeting in September. Lee has worked closely with the council and city staff as a member of Bel Aire’s Economic Advisory Committee.
While confident in Lee’s ability to step up in the vacant leadership position, the council and Mayor Harold Smith said Sly and his contributions would be missed. Council member Gary Breault described Sly as a “voice of calm, quiet reason” who always did his homework.
“Please know you’ve been successful in helping Bel Aire through this difficult period,” Smith said.

Collaborative grant revisited with economic development focus

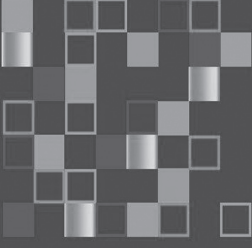
By Matt Heilman

The discussion that started nearly two years ago is picking back up with a more narrow focus. Economic development is the name of the game.
Last year, Kechi and Bel Aire combined to win a \$25,000 grant called the Community Capacity Building Grant, which paid for a third-party consultant, Professional Engineering Consultants, to work with the cities to help them identify opportunities for collaboration.
The goal of the grant is ultimately for both cities to save money by increasing efficiencies.
Through input from residents and city leaders, areas identified as possibilities for Bel Aire and Kechi to combine efforts included street maintenance, shared equipment and inspection, IT services and economic development along K-254, which is the primary focus as the city’s revisit collaboration opportunities.
“It’s less about real estate than it is about good and efficient planning for each city’s growth,” Kechi City Administrator Bob Conger said.
Kechi and Bel Aire share a border along K-254 and Conger said any commercial development along the corri-

dor would benefit both cities.
Kechi residents who weighed in on PEC’s work in the Community Capacity Building grant made it clear that any collaboration that does happen with Bel Aire should not entail consolidation. Police services and other departments will not be merged or shared and neither city will require its staff to expand their roles to cater to the other. This was a point Kechi leaders made clear after residents expressed a few concerns.
“No, we and Bel Aire and/or Wichita are not merging,” Kechi council member Kevin Opat said at a meeting last September. “No the city halls and staffs are not merging. We in Kechi are not going to bail out Bel Aire. Kechi tax dollars are not going to prop up Bel Aire.”
After the focus of collaboration was narrowed to shared equipment and maintenance and economic development, the efforts stalled for several months. Kechi’s primary focus was to rebuild its police department. The city also had to replace its administrator after Mark Tallman submitted his resignation at a meeting in late February.
Tallman was a leader in helping the cities obtain the Community Capacity Building Grant. The collaboration efforts had already been put

on the backburner when he resigned from the city.
In July, Kechi hired Conger to replace Tallman. Conger has prioritized economic development as a top goal for Kechi along with balancing its budget. Revisiting the grant with Bel Aire, leaders from both cities agree that at least for now, collaboration shouldn’t go beyond commercial development along the K-254 corridor, stretching about two miles east to west from Oliver to Rock Road.
In the last year, Bel Aire has made progress on land sales. And although it still faces a steep debt, the city is more financially stable than it has been in the last couple of years and is in a better position to revisit collaboration opportunities with Kechi as it looks to build off momentum generated by the presence of two new Wichita school district schools in the city.
Bel Aire has commitments to build on its 800-acre industrial park property and the neighboring Tierra Verde Development, which sits less than a mile south of 53rd North and Webb Road.
The collaborative efforts in economic development where the cities meet, north and west of Tierra Verde and Bel Aire’s industrial park, would likely include combined marketing efforts. Both cities want to make sure that

whatever commercial development happens along K-254 makes sense for the area and benefits everyone, Conger said.
Conger said PEC has boiled development plans along K-254 down to three proposals for the public’s consideration. The options are preliminary designs that present different layouts of development and how that will “unfold and evolve,” he said.
With commercial development, retail options will be the biggest part of the equation, but Conger said there might also be areas that fit better for manufacturing. It all comes down to how land is zoned.
At a 5:30 p.m. Sept. 6 open house at Kechi City Hall, residents from Kechi and Bel Aire are encouraged to review some of the collaboration opportunities PEC discovered in their thorough study of each city and to see and offer input on the proposals for commercial development along the K-254 corridor.
In the Community Capacity Building Grant and proposals for commercial development, Conger said PEC has created a “smorgasbord” from which residents can choose what they like and what they don’t like.
“This is about 90-percent




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Local church welcomes Myanmar refugees

By The Breeze staff

Christ Lutheran Church welcomed two refugees from Myanmar (formerly Burma) into the United States last month. The church has been working with EWARM (Episcopal Wichita Area Refugee Ministries) for months to make this happen.

When Christ members began working on this, it became apparent that it was to be a church-wide endeavor because the refugees would need everything — a place to stay, clothes, furniture, supplies, food and other items.

A committee was formed and everyone in the church pitched in. They brought

beds, kitchen supplies, clothes and towels, and set up the apartment so that it was move-in ready when the time came for their arrival. Excitement built when the church received word that the young couple would arrive on Aug. 3. The couple didn't know where they would end up until they got to the airport, received their tickets and were on the airplane. They have been in a refugee camp since 2006.

Nawshar (wife) and Saw (husband) arrived at the Wichita airport and were greeted by members of the church. When they spotted each other, tears started to flow as church members



Members of Christ Lutheran Church welcome refugees Nawshar and Saw to Wichita when they arrived at the airport Aug. 3.

Courtesy photo

realized that their mission to help those in need was being fulfilled, and Nawshar and Saw realized that they were free and will be able to pursue news live free from fear and oppression. The church will continue to have contact with them as they adjust to their new lives, surroundings and culture.

City takes first official action for key developments

By Matt Heilman

Slowly, significant progress is being made on the development front in Bel Aire. In recent months, the city has picked up steam in its seemingly never-ending quest to see structures replace vacant land on which the debt approached \$20 million.

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Bel Aire council took the first formal action toward making construction in a couple of key developments a reality. The council approved a pair of resolutions to show intent to issue industrial revenue bonds for the first tenants in two of the city's largest developments.

Financial adviser Theron Froggatte was on hand to discuss the IRBs with the council. The issuance of the bonds

involves a 10-year property tax abatement for each of the proposed tenants expected to soon begin construction in Bel Aire.

The council approved a resolution to show its intent to issue \$2.08 million in IR bonds for Century Manufacturing to construct a facility in the city's 800-acre industrial park called "The Sunflower Commerce Park" running along 53rd North from Webb to Greenwich roads.

Century Manufacturing, which makes acrylic and transparent plastic promotional materials, is planning to move to Bel Aire from the 3300 block of Webb Road. Froggatte said the company is making the move in part to cut down on its overhead and to increase its available space. Last month, the city council

approved a purchase agreement with the company for a lot in the first phase of "The Sunflower Commerce Park." The proposed facility is about 35,000 square feet and will bring about 28 employees to Bel Aire with plans to grow that number to 50 over the next few years, Froggatte said. The building will include warehousing, office space and some manufacturing.

Century Manufacturing also has a manufacturing facility in El Dorado where 70 workers are employed, Froggatte said.

The council also approved a resolution to show intent to provide about \$5.5 million in industrial revenue bonds for the Concierge Surgical Recovery Center, which is the first tenant committed to building on two acres in the

Tierra Verde development near 47th North and Webb Road. The surgical recovery center is in the first phase of the eventual three-phase development that Froggatte described as a spa, health care and medical campus. He said the surgical recovery center would encompass about 20,000 square feet.

Tierra Verde developer Terrie Grillot said plans call for construction on the facility to start soon.

In discussing the industrial revenue bonds, Froggatte said cost-benefit analysis conducted at Wichita State University show that the city will come out ahead on its investment to provide the tax abatement for each project, factoring in the presence of the new businesses and about 100 new employees between Century Manufactur-

ing and the surgical recovery center. The resolutions to show intent for issuing the IRBs were approved 4-0 with council member Peggy O'Donnell absent from the Aug. 7 meeting. No one spoke during a public hearing to discuss the IRBs.

Also on Aug. 7, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance for \$570,638.51.
- Heard a presentation from consultants Jeff Best with Law Kingdon and Jeff Lackey with TranSystems who gave a presentation on the finalized master plan for The Sunflower Commerce Park.
- Held a public hearing on the 2013 budget. Nobody spoke during the public hearing. The 2013 budget doesn't call for a tax increase from the 2012 mark.
- Tabled a decision on whether to approve a sewer and water rate study by Springstead at a cost not to exceed \$16,000.
- Approved a change order with Kansas Paving in the amount of \$2,660.
- Approved a change order with

CK Contracting for \$1,660 in the Rock Spring Addition.

- Approved the purchase of a 2007 Ford F-550 bucket truck for \$54,900.
- Approved a purchase agreement addendum with Zimmerman Properties LLC for four acres next to the new USD 259 high school near 53rd North and Rock Road. Zimmerman Properties, based in Springfield, Mo., plans to build a 48-unit apartment complex on the four acres through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program.
- Approved a resolution of support for the development of a market based housing community by Corson Development Inc. for a 150- to 200-unit apartment complex northwest of City Hall.
- Approved the purchase of a Grasshopper mower for \$4,161.25.
- Approved the mayor's appointment of Ken Lee to replace Dave Sly as a council member effective after the Sept. 4 council meeting. Sly's job as an engineer with Boeing is moving him to Oklahoma City. Lee is a member of Bel Aire's Economic Advisory Committee.
- Held a 20-minute executive session to discuss matters relating to attorney-client privilege.

Drivers needed for meal delivery program

By The Breeze staff

Locally, the Good Neighbor Nutrition Program is meeting the needs of those it serves, but volunteer help is needed. In the program through the American Red Cross, midday meals are prepared every weekday and delivered to area senior

citizens who can't get to the grocery store or don't have the means to buy groceries.

In north Sedgwick County, meals are prepared and delivered from the Park City Senior Center and distributed to seniors in Park City, Valley Center, Kechi and Bel Aire. Meals are also served at the senior center, but the pro-

gram needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals on Mondays and Tuesdays in Bel Aire.

Tri-City Senior Director Vicki Shepard said meals are available for drivers to pick up between 10:30 and 11 a.m. each weekday and most delivery routes can be completed in about an hour.

Site supervisor Judy Price,

who prepares the meals for the program, said substitute drivers are also desired to fill in when volunteer drivers are unable to make deliveries.

If interested in volunteering, call the Park City Senior Center at 744-0751 or Teresa Underwood with the American Red Cross at 219-4020.

Budget

Continued from Page 1

financial state heading into 2013 and beyond.

In addition to keeping property taxes even with the 2012 mark, the finalized 2013 budget will allow the city to add a full-time officer to the police department and leaves room for a few equipment upgrades, including a new mower for the park's department and a utility vehicle for the rec commis-

sion staff. While he's shared an overall optimistic view of Bel Aire's long-term outlook, Mayor Harold Smith said city leaders still have a lot of work ahead of them before Bel Aire can feel more comfortable in its financial state.

"The city is still running on a really tight budget," he said. "It will likely be that way for at least a couple more years."

Also on Aug. 21, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$370,282.47
- Heard from a resident who voiced frustration that the Wichita

Eagle keeps throwing a free version of its newspaper in his yard. The man didn't read the paper and considered it littering to have the papers thrown onto his property. He felt it was against the city's ordinance on littering.

- Approved a resolution approving the sale of Chisholm Creek Utility Authority refunding and improvement revenue bonds
- Approved a sewer and water rate study by Springstead at a cost not to exceed \$16,000
- Approved ordinances amending the city's traffic and uniform public offense codes to follow the state's guidelines for 2012

- Approved a police services agreement with Sunrise Christian Academy for the 2012 football season
- Set a public hearing for 7 p.m. Oct. 2 regarding a loan application to the Kansas Public Water Loan Fund for water and sewer improvements

All five council members were present at the Aug. 21 meeting.

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